

by Senator Fenger to place LB 675 on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. Please record your presence. We are looking for 42 members to make our full complement today. Senator Clark, please record your presence. Senator Hannibal, Senator Vard Johnson, Senators Wagner and Warner, Schmit. Senator Warner and Senator Schmit. We have 42 members on board, Senator Fenger. Senator Fenger, we have 42 members here. I believe that is...the Chair recognizes Senator Fenger to close on his motion to raise LB 675 to General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. Order in the Chamber please. (Gavel.) Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Carsten was the first person to stand after I introduced this motion. Senator Carsten is not in the room, but prior to his leaving he and I got together and the vote on the issue at hand was in fact 5-1-1-1, not 6-1-1 as was reported. I was interested in Senator Higgins' comments this morning because there has been about four events happen in the last year. They said that I'm contrary on the local control issue. Actually let's take the events in reverse. I introduced a bill because Omaha introduced two ordinances. Omaha introduced two ordinances because they lost the local option of the sales tax on food. So I find a contradiction of terms that Senator Higgins openly admits to championing that loss of local option to Omaha last year, and now finds it refreshing to stand on the floor and defend their right of local option. The only survey that I saw myself on this issue was one conducted by an independent poll that in fact did say this was an extremely unpopular people issue with the people direct. There has been a lot said about my constituency this morning. In closing, I merely want to say this, for all practical purposes it would appear now, even the Omaha senators said it, that it's very unlikely Omaha will impose this. The truth of the matter is district representation on this floor, any impressions are red herrings. At issue here is a statewide authority to continue a program of regressive taxes for wage earners at the lower end of the spectrum and the future of economic development in this state. With that, sir, I thank you.